144 174 contact with Lithuanian and German tribes, the result of which was, to a certain extent, a mixed population.

•167 162 Gradually some of these Balto-Finnic people began to migrate to the north across the Gulf of Finland. The country here was probably already known to them as rich in forests and hunting grounds, and at that time it was only very sparsely populated by nomadic Lapps and perhaps some Germanic people with settlements along the southwestern coastal area. The tribes moving over to the north were called the Finns (suomalaiset) and the Tavastians (hämäläiset). A third tribe, the Karelians (karjalaiset), had probably migrated by land over the Karelian Isthmus and had settled around Lake Ladoga, pushing their frontier slowly westward. These

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162 three tribes are the elements comprising the present-day Finnish nation, the common designation for which has been adopted from the name of the westernmost branch of the population.

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[181] The first Finnish settlers were already agricultural people, although hunting and fishing no doubt provided a more ample living. They also had already developed their own artistic forms, as shown by grave finds of tools, clothing and ornaments, and by their epical poetry, preserved in the Kalevala and still unsurpassed by anything Finnish poets have achieved in later ages. Epic poetry is an important source for historical investigation, as it reflects the feuds the ancient Finns had with the Scandinavian Vikings during a heroic, military era which

166 individuals 4.4 per cent. Some of the Karelians
423 have preferred to pioneer new farms in uncultivated areas with the support of the State. By now the displaced population has more or less adjusted itself to the new surroundings.

163 During the last decade the population of
165 Finland has been steadily increasing, due to higher birth rates and a lower rate of mortality, especially infant mortality. The birth rate in 1949 was 25.7 per thousand, the death rate 11.3. The increase of population was, in 1952, 13.5 per thousand, while in 1935 it was only 6.9 per thousand. The life expectance in 1949 was 54.62 years for men, 61.14 years for women. It has been estimated that Finland easily can support a population twice the size of the present one. In spite of this, emigration abroad
167 has at times been considerable. Even in the

167 early Middle Ages some Finns settled on the western shores of the Gulf of Bothnia, and at the present time the Finnish-speaking population in the Swedish province of Västerbotten has reached 30,000. Another Finnish expansion has been going on towards the north, and a considerable number of Finns are living in Finnmarken in the Norwegian Arctic. There have been Finnish pioneers even in the woodlands of central Scandinavia, but in those regions the Finnish language today is almost extinct. Inkeri--the district around Leningrad--was inhabited by Finns after it fell to Sweden in 1611 and a large majority of the original Karelian population moved out for fear of being forcibly converted to Lutheranism. About 250,000 Finns used to live in this

• 167 district, but today most of them have been deported and dispersed.

The Finns, together with the Swedes, were among the first Europeans to establish settlements in North America at the beginning of the seventeenth century. But those Delaware-Finns soon disappeared tracelessly among the more numerous newcomers. As a mass movement, emigration started in the 1880's and during the decade 1900 to 1910 the number of Finns emigrating abroad totalled 160,000. The reasons for this were economic as well as political--the fear of increased Russian pressure. In 1930 there were 142,478 Finnish-born immigrants living in the United States; in 1940 their number was 117,210 and in 1950, 95,506. In Canada there were only about 50,000 Finns.

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● 167 After World War II, between 1945-50, 46,000 Finns left the country, most of them settling in Sweden (approximately 40,000). During the last two years emigration has been of minor importance, amounting only to some 5,000 persons a year.

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